

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following Abstract:

--The invention relates to a lining for columns of automobiles comprising a base area (1) with fixing and holding elements (4) and at least one opening area (2) covering, for example, an airbag (3). According to the invention, the opening area (2) consists largely of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness of more than 100 and has a hinge area (6) consisting of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness of less than 95, which adjoins the base area (1). --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add Claims 5-9 as follows:

5. (New) A lining for columns of automobiles, comprising:
a base area with fixing and holding elements and at least one opening area covering an airbag, wherein the at least one opening area comprises a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness greater than 100 and has a hinge area adjoining the base area and consisting essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness of less than 95.

6. (New) The lining as claimed in claim 5, wherein the opening area is further bounded by one of intended fracture lines and wall thickness reductions adjoining the hinge area.

7. (New) The lining as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hinge area consists essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness between 30 and 95, preferably between 60 and 80.

8. (New) The lining as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hinge area consists essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness between 60 and 80.